

in 1989. He amassed a large collection of local artifacts during his life, which became the heart of the Santee-Nacoochee Valley History Museum at the Santee Nacoochee-Arts and Community Center.

In light of how many lives he touched during his decades of selfless service, Dr. Tom will certainly be missed in Northeast Georgia. My prayers and thoughts are with India and the rest of Dr. Tom's family as they mourn their loss.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF NELLEANN RUTH HAMM BELL

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Northwest Florida's beloved Nelleann "Nell" Ruth Hamm Bell who passed away on January 31, 2014. Mrs. Bell was a loving and devoted wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and a leader in the community. Northwest Florida mourns her loss.

Mrs. Bell was born in Birmingham, Alabama, where she lived before moving with her family to Pensacola, Florida. She and her husband, Dr. Reed Bell, both attended Pensacola High School and graduated in 1947. They later married and started a family. Mrs. Bell supported her husband and help raised their six children, as Dr. Bell served as the Medical Director of the Sacred Heart Children's Hospital.

In the late 1970s, Mrs. Bell became heavily involved in politics and civil society. She founded the Pensacola chapter of the Florida Federation of Women for Responsible Legislation, and thanks to her dedicated leadership, she became the organization's president. In this capacity, she worked with other organizations, such as the Eagle Forum, to promote pro-family legislation. Mrs. Bell was also deeply committed to improving the lives of people in her local community, and she made an immense impact on countless individuals through her founding of Our Mother's Home, a maternity home for unwed mothers. In addition to her leadership and service, Mrs. Bell was a woman of tremendous faith who was fully committed to serving the Lord.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to honor the life of Mrs. Nell Bell. My wife Vicki and I offer our prayers and sincerest condolences to her six children, Rev. William R. Bell, Jr.; Mitzi Peters; Terry Bush; Former Florida Supreme Court Justice Kenneth Bell; Lance Bell; and Brian Bell; 20 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; family and friends. Mrs. Bell will be truly missed, and her contributions to Northwest Florida will never be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO JACK WYATT

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2014

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to our country,

state and community are exceptional. We have been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent to make their communities, and country, a better place to live and work. Jack Wyatt is one of these individuals. Jack's many accomplishments are wide ranging, as he has made his mark as a successful businessman, a decorated member of the military and an active supporter of the community. On February 4, 2014, Jack will be honored by the Riverside County Board of Supervisors for all he has done.

Jack is the true definition of an American patriot and hero. A 35 year veteran, Jack represented his country proudly, serving in four theaters of war during his long career. He has truly seen it all, being shot down, and eventually rescued, while in Vietnam. It is no surprise that he holds commendations from five former United States Presidents. Jack has since retired as a Captain in the Navy Reserve, though his advice and expertise remain highly sought after. In the early 1990's Jack turned down an Admiralty in Washington D.C., as it meant that he would have to move from his beloved city of Corona, California, out east to the Pentagon.

From 2000 to 2001, Jack was assigned to lead a special project by the Navy's Chief of Information, Thomas Jurkowski, in conjunction with his tasking by the Secretary of the Navy, Richard Danzig, and Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld. The project, "Vision 21," was created to develop a "lessons learned" program following Operation Desert Storm and Operation Allied Force. Due to the success of the program, Jack and many members of his team were awarded the Meritorious Service Medal. More recently, Jack became an advisor to the United States Secretary of the Navy on strategy planning, international affairs, and policy, and also served as Public Affairs Advisor to the Commander of the Naval Reserve Force of Western Region, San Diego.

Not only has Jack served his country proudly, he has also contributed to his community's economic and developmental growth. After retiring from active duty, Jack began a long career, spanning 28 years, with Southern California Edison. His focus in management and public policy development garnered the company increased success. Jack went on to become Regional Director for the Inland Empire from 1985 to 1999, and his responsibility covered three counties and 56 cities, with an annual revenue base of \$3.5 billion dollars.

With his influence and knowledge of the industry, Jack took a leap of faith and started his own company, Strategic Connections, Inc. (SCI) in 1999. This organization of professionals and specialists advises executives and public officials on a wide array of utility issues including service, leadership and strategy. With Jack's guidance, the company has grown to be a leader in the industry within Southern California.

I have come to know Jack well through many years working together on a variety of projects in California. I can personally attest to his incredible work-ethic, professionalism, and positive attitude. In light of all Jack has done for Southern California and our country, it is only fitting that he be honored by the Board of Supervisors for his more than 30 years of dedicated commitment to our community. Jack's honorable service and tireless passion for public service has contributed immensely

to the betterment of our country, state and community. I am proud to call him a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many individuals are grateful for his service and salute him on this great milestone.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK SANFORD

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2014

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, I was absent for votes on Monday, February 3, 2014, due to Flights #4634 and #4065 being cancelled out of Charleston International Airport, and Flight #1750 being subsequently cancelled out of Charlotte International Airport. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: H.R. 1791: Medical Preparedness Allowable Use Act; Yes. H.R. 357: GI Bill Tuition Fairness Act of 2013: Yes.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENTS OF PALMA YANNI

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2014

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Palma Yanni, who has been named Lady of the Year by UNICO, the nation's largest Italian-American service organization. Palma Yanni was born in Scranton, Pennsylvania to Casper and Rose Torchia Adamo. She was raised in Scranton and graduated from Scranton Technical High School. She is a former member of St. Anthony's Church in Scranton, and is now a member of St. Peter's Cathedral. Prior to raising her own family, she worked at JC Penney and the Holly Shop in downtown Scranton. While her children were in school, she was an active member of the PTA and served as President.

Through her work with local service organizations, Palma has demonstrated a lifelong commitment to community service. She has been an active member of the Scranton Chapter of UNICO's Ladies Auxiliary for the past 30 years, holding offices of Corresponding Secretary and President and is a member of the Board of Directors, where she has chaired and assisted in many Auxiliary events.

In 2003, when women began to join, Palma began working with the Scranton Chapter of UNICO. She was elected Second Vice President in 2009 and in 2011 became the first woman to serve as President of the Scranton chapter of UNICO—the largest chapter in the country. She also serves on the Board of Directors and was elected Chair of the Board in 2012. Palma was also named President of Ladies Auxiliary of the North Scranton Knights of Columbus, is a member of St. Joseph's Center Auxiliary and the Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic, and volunteers with "Family to Family" and St. Peter's Cathedral.

Although she has just recently earned national recognition, Palma Yanni has been a pillar of the Scranton service community for decades. She remains an active member in the Scranton UNICO chapter, volunteering and